



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lucien Alfred Couvillon, Jr.  
 Application No.: 10/751,544  
 Date Filed: 01/05/2004  
 Title: UNIVERSAL, PROGRAMMABLE GUIDE CATHETER  
 Group Art Unit: 3739  
 Examiner: Unassigned  
 Atty. Docket No.: 02-076 C1

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Mail Stop DD  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 and/or subsequently identified herein, are being submitted herewith for consideration by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

I. COPIES

- a.  A legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patents; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed, is included herewith.
- b.  Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on PTO/SB/08 which are not enclosed herewith were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120:

U.S. Serial NumberU.S. Filing DateII. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

- a.  Except as may be indicated below in (b) of this section, all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).
- b.  A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:
- c.  The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

III.  CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this (these) applications to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. §122.

Serial No.Filing DateArt Unit

FEES

- IV.  **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):** (check one box)
- a.  within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1)). No fee or statement is required.
- b.  within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2)). No fee or statement is required.
- c.  before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3)). No fee or statement is required.
- d.  before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114 (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(4)). No fee or statement is required.
- V.  **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c):** (check one box)
- before the mailing date of any of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)).
- a.  No statement; therefore, charge deposit account 50-1047 the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- b.  See the statement below. No fee is required.
- VI.  **THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d):**
- on or before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by the following:
- 1) a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) as provided below; and
- 2) charge deposit account 50-1047 the petition fee set forth in §1.17(p).
- VII.  **STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):** (check only one box, if applicable)
- The undersigned hereby states that
- a.  each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of IDS; or
- b.  no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and to knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, or
- c.  some of the items of information contained in the IDS were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- VIII. **PAYMENT OF FEES**
- A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the above-identified fee(s).
- Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1047 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee(s).
- If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 50-1047.
- Two Copies of this paper are attached for Deposit Account charges and debits.



Docket: 02-076 C1

It is Applicant(s)' opinion that the claims presently on file patently distinguish the present invention from each of these references. The above references are being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art or contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in a combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Bonham  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 34,297  
Tel. 703-433-0510  
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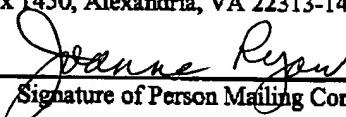
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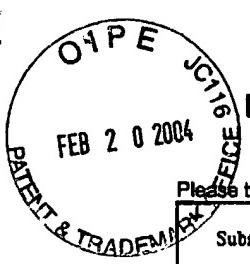
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne Ryan  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Certificate



Docket No.: 02-076 C1

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box. FORM PTO/SB/08

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Application Number	10/751,544
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	01/05/2004
		First Named Inventor	Lucien Alfred Couvillon, Jr.
		Group Art Unit	3739
		Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	02-076 C1

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	T
		Office <sup>2</sup>	Number <sup>3</sup>	Class/Subclass			
	1.	EP	0943402 A2	B25J 9/10	Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Tokyo; Japan Chemical Innovation Institute	09/22/1999	
	2.	JP	05177002	A61M 25/01	Olympus Optical Co. Ltd.	07/20/1993	✓
	3.	FR	2732225	A61M 25/01	Mazars Paul	10/04/1996	✓
	4.	WO	99/60267	F03G 7/06	Ronald S. Maynard	11/25/1999	
Examiner Signature					Date Considered		

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation, if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 18 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English translation is attached.

**1 Unique citation designation number.** **2** Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/751,544
				Filing Date	01/05/2004
				First Named Inventor	Lucien Alfred Couvillon, Jr.
				Group Art Unit	3739
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	02-276 C1

#### **OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.
	1	A. DELLA SANTA et al., "Intravascular Microcatheters Steered by Conducting Polymer Actuators," 18 <sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, Amsterdam 1996, pp. 2203-2204.
	2.	ALBERTO MAZZOLDI et al., "Conductive Polymer Based Structures for a Steerable Catheter,"
		<i>Smart Structures and Materials 2000: Electroactive Polymer Actuators and Devices</i> , Y. Bar-Cohen, ed., Proceedings of SPIE, Vol. 3987 (2000), pp. 273-280.

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation, if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.